

LISTING OF CLAIMS

Please replace pages 15-18 of the original English translation submitted herewith with substitute sheets 15-18 attached hereto, which includes a Listing of Claims incorporating Annexes under PCT Article 36. Please amend the claims on substitute sheets 15-18 as follows. Original Claims 23 and 24 were canceled in the Annexes, and originally filed Claims 1-22 were amended in the Annexes.

On page 15, line 1, please delete the current heading “CLAIMS” and insert the following new heading:

--What is claimed is:---

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station (1, 4) for the manufacture of partially designed areas in one or more layers of a web of sheeting (3, 6), ~~which illuminating station (1, 4) has comprising~~ one or more radiation sources (11, 41) for illuminating said web of sheeting; (3, 6), ~~wherein said illuminating station (1, 4) has~~ a masking tape (2, 5) having partially designed areas (231, 232, 233, 234) showing different optical properties[[,]]; and ~~said illuminating station (1, 4) has~~ two or more guide means (181, 182, 183, 184; 461, 462, 82, 83) for guiding said masking tape (2, 5) and/or for guiding said web of sheeting (3, 6), these being disposed such that said masking tape (2, 5) is guided through an illuminating zone in the path of radiation between said one or more radiation sources (11, 41) and said web of sheeting (3, 6), and said illuminating station (1, 4) has coupling means (182, 183; 7) for causing said masking tape (2, 5) to travel through said illuminating zone at the same speed as that of said web of sheeting (3, 6), ~~characterized in that~~ wherein said masking tape (2, 5) has a base layer (221) of a material which is permeable to the radiation of said one or more radiation sources (11, 41), and that wherein said masking tape (2, 5) has at least one of

- a) partially designed areas showing different optical refractive indices, and/or
- b) partially designed areas (231, 232, 233, 234) showing different polarization

properties, and/or

- c) partially designed areas showing different reflective properties.

2. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that said illuminating station (4) has further comprising~~ an insetting system (7, 75, 76, 71) which adjusts the position of said masking tape (5) relatively to said web of sheeting (6) in such a manner that the illumination is carried out in register.

3. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1 ~~or claim 2, characterized in that said illuminating station (1, 4) has, further comprising~~ a tensioning device (17, 47) for tensioning said masking tape (2, 5).

4. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, wherein any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said coupling means is in the form of at least one roller (182, 183), over which said web of sheeting (3) and said masking tape (2) are guided in superposition such that said masking tape (2) is caused to travel together with said web of sheeting (3).

5. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 4, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said coupling means comprises two rollers (182, 183) disposed on each side of said illuminating zone for guiding said web of sheeting (3) and said masking tape (2) and two rollers (181, 184) disposed on each side of said illuminating zone for guiding said masking tape and for producing a contact pressure between said masking tape (2) and said web of sheeting (3).

6. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, further comprising in any one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that said illuminating station (4) has a driving system (71) for causing said masking tape (5) to travel at a first speed and that, wherein said coupling means is in the form of control device (7) which regulates a driving system (71), which control device synchronizes the first speed with the speed of said web of sheeting (6).

7. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, wherein any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said masking tape (2, 5) is an endless web.

8. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined claim 1, wherein in any one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that said masking tape is an open web (91), which is guided from a first reel (94) supplying said masking tape to a second reel (95) receiving said masking tape.

9. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined claim 1, wherein in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said masking tape exhibits one or more personalized patterned regions.

10. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, wherein any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said masking tape is a rewritable masking tape.

11. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, wherein any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said masking tape (2) has a patterned region (23, 24, 25, 26) which is repeated once or a number of times.

12. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined claim 1, wherein in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said masking tape has partially designed areas showing at least one of transparent, and/or absorptive, and and/or reflective properties.

13. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, characterized in that wherein in the case of item b), said masking tape has an area in which the direction of polarization in which incident light is polarized changes continually.

14. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, characterized in that wherein in the case of item b), said masking tape has adjacent areas in which the direction of polarization in which incident light is polarized is different.

15. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ in the case of item b), said masking tape has adjacent areas in which the incident light is polarized and nonpolarized respectively.

16. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, further comprising any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said illuminating station has an optical filter, particularly a polarizer and/or band-pass filter, positioned in the optical path between said one or more light sources and said masking tape.

17. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, further comprising any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said illuminating station (1, 4) has a collimator ~~(13, 42)~~ positioned in the optical path between said one or more light sources ~~(11, 41)~~ and said masking tape ~~(2, 5)~~.

18. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, wherein any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said radiation source ~~(11, 41)~~ is a light source, particularly a UV lamp.

19. (Currently Amended) An illuminating station as defined in claim 1, further comprising in any one of the previous claims, characterized in that said illuminating station has a screen ~~(15, 43, 44)~~ that is shaped such that it shields the radiation of said radiation source ~~(11, 41)~~ from those areas of said web of sheeting ~~(3, 6)~~ which are not in said illuminating zone.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of using an illuminating station as defined in claim 1 any one of the previous claims for the production of an optically variable security element having partially designed areas showing different optical properties.

21. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 20, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said optically variable element is an optical security element for securing bank notes, credit cards, and the like.

22. (Currently Amended) A method as defined in claim 20, ~~characterized in that wherein~~ said optically variable element is a film, particularly an embossed film, laminated film, or sticker film.

AMENDMENTS TO THE ABSTRACT

On page 19, please replace the Abstract with the following:

ABSTRACT

The invention relates to an illuminating station (1) for the production of partially designed areas in one or more layers of a web of sheeting (3) and to optically variable elements produced with such an illuminating station (1) and possessing partially designed areas showing different optical properties. The illuminating station (1) has one or more radiation sources (11) for illuminating the sheeting (3). The illuminating station (1) has, further, a masking tape (2) having partially designed areas showing different optical properties, which masking tape is guided through an illuminating zone (18) in the path of radiation between said one or more radiation sources (11) and the web of sheeting (3). The illuminating station (1) further has two or more guide means (182,183) for guiding the masking tape and/or for guiding the web of sheeting, which guide means are arranged such that the masking tape (2) is guided in the illuminating zone (18) in parallel relationship relative to the sheeting (3). Furthermore, the illuminating station (1) has coupling means (181, 182, 183, 184) for causing the masking tape (2) and the web of sheeting (3) to travel through the illuminating zone (18) at the same speed.

Fig. 1)